

Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1871.

The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 1 1/2 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 4 1/2. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

THE FICKEN SHOOTING CASE.

A GREAT effort is evidently being made to induce the Governor to remit the forfeiture of the bail of Richard Ficken, who has fled to Europe to escape the consequences of his crime in shooting the boy Arthur Curran, in this city, about a year ago. One of the arguments advanced to induce the Governor to interfere is that Ficken is willing to pay the boy the sum of \$20,000 if the prosecution of the case is discontinued. We can scarcely believe that Governor Geary will aid in compounding a felony, for the remission of the forfeiture of Ficken's bail, under the existing circumstances, will be nothing else; and it should be clearly understood by the public that the efforts now being made to fix up matters so that Ficken can return to Philadelphia, without fear of being brought to trial, are in themselves grave offenses against the law. Governor Geary should repulse the advances being made to him to induce his interference, as insults to himself and his office; and if he has the slightest self-respect or appreciation of the dignity of his office, he will refuse in the most positive manner possible to interfere. Ficken has committed a crime, and hopes because of his wealth to escape the consequences of it. His offense was not merely against the boy Curran, but it was an outrage on the community at large which can only be expiated by a public trial, conviction, and sentence under the law. If he is willing to return and submit to a trial, and then offers to make the boy a suitable pecuniary compensation for the injury he received, we would most cordially recommend him to the clemency of the Executive. But he is now defying the law, and his friends and legal advisers are aiding him in the commission of a second offense in the hope of defeating justice. Governor Geary must understand that Ficken cannot at this time, with any propriety, be pardoned, and that, apart from all other considerations, it will undoubtedly be said, and with justice, that Ficken's wealth procured for him an immunity from punishment when a poor man would have been made to suffer all the consequences of his crime. Governor Geary has yet some reputation to lose, and we hope sincerely for his own sake that he will think twice before acting in this matter. Compounding a felony is a serious offense in itself, and it will be a disgraceful thing if the Governor of this Commonwealth should be implicated in anything of the kind.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The opinion of the Supreme Court on the public buildings question which was delivered yesterday by Justice John M. Read is not only interesting as a masterly legal argument, but it has a high value as a historical review of the whole subject of the public parks of this city. This opinion conclusively demonstrates the right of the Board of Commissioners to place the public buildings upon the intersection of Broad and Market street, and we are much pleased to find that it has already made one influential convert among those who have hitherto earnestly advocated the location of the public buildings upon Independence and Washington Squares. The Press this morning not only cordially endorses the decision of the Supreme Court, but it expresses the desire that all further controversy should cease, and that the wishes of the people of Philadelphia should be carried out by the erection of the new municipal buildings upon the only proper site for them. The remarks of the Press are so very much to the point that we invite the attention of our readers to the following extract from its article:— "We were among those who earnestly advocated a down-town location for the municipal buildings, and our choice of a site was Washington Square. Previous to the decision at which the public were required to vote upon the subject, we warmly participated in the discussion, but when by a majority of nearly 30,000 votes the citizens decided against us, we yielded our private opinion and advised a cheerful acquiescence in the popular verdict. And now that the highest tribunal in the State has passed upon the legal questions raised in the recent contest, so ably maintained by the counsel on both sides, we believe any further opposition of private individuals or public bodies will be regarded as highly disrespectful to the parties protesting."

"We feel assured that our representatives in Council will not speedily in overlooking the necessary aid to push the work vigorously, and we have no doubt our legislators in Legislature, who must be sick and tired of the subject, will be congratulating themselves that the subject has been finally disposed of."

"The fear of a few persons that a grand architectural monument to Philadelphia enterprise located in the centre of Penn Square will injuriously affect Broad street we are satisfied is unfounded. It is in keeping only with the old opposition to street-cars, to their running on Sunday to the Chesnut street bridge, to the removal of the market sheds, etc., and we venture to predict that when the building is completed, with the grand avenues 150 feet wide surrounding it, thus opening up a perfect view of the new Masonic Temple, those who now complain will wonder why they had ever done so. We commend to the members of the Legislature, of Council, and of the Building Commission, the conclusive sentence of the Supreme Court:—'The site has been selected by the public voice, and it should now be the business of every fair-minded citizen to see the buildings pushed to a speedy completion.' It is to be hoped that the example of this

Press will inspire other of our contemporaries in the neighborhood of Sixth and Seventh and Chesnut streets to cease from further opposition to the Building Commissioners, and in the future to exert their influence to promote the speedy erection of a handsome architectural pile which will not only furnish ample accommodation to our courts and municipal offices, but which will be an ornament to the city.

THE INCOME TAX.

The statistics of the internal revenue taxes collected in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Congressional districts (which embrace all of the city of Philadelphia except a few wards) during the year 1870, show that out of a gross sum of \$6,850,736, about one-third, or \$2,280,161, was derived from the iniquitous tax on incomes. Meanwhile, of the total internal revenue collected in the whole country (\$185,000,000), only \$37,775,873, or about one-fifth, was derived from the income tax. Practically this imposition, among its other vicious attributes, therefore taxes the people of the cities, who are also burdened with excessively onerous taxation, much more heavily than the people of the rural districts. A very large proportion of the latter live upon their own farms, and many of their wants being supplied by home products derived directly from the soil, they have comparatively little necessity for money. In the cities, however, every article of food, clothing, etc., must be purchased, and as a result of this diversity, an income of two thousand dollars in the city has often less intrinsic value than an income of one thousand dollars in the country. But in imposing the tax no cognizance is taken of this wide difference in the relative value of a given income, and consequently many a rich farmer has escaped a tax which a comparatively poor clerk was obliged to pay. It would be bad enough if the iniquity of the system was confined to the taxation of the rich for the benefit of the poor, but it goes further and does worse than this—for it taxes struggling men in the cities who are constantly hampered by poverty, while it allows inhabitants of the rural districts, who are rich in material wealth, to totally escape taxation. The country members of Congress, who must be well aware of this inequality, have been sustained heretofore in their efforts to continue it by an Ohio Commissioner of Internal Revenue (Delano) and Ohio chairmen of the Finance Committees (Schenck and Sherman), because Ohio abounds with rich farmers who rejoice in the opportunity to unburden themselves by placing a double load upon the backs of the people of the cities. But the new Commissioner of Internal Revenue, General Pleasanton, is disposed to right the wrong that has disgraced the financial legislation of Congress, and we hope that the day of deliverance is near at hand.

RECEIVERS OF STOLEN GOODS.

A CASE of considerable interest to merchants and others who are liable to suffer from the depredations of burglars was tried before Judge Sharswood on Tuesday. Matthias Kaas, a pawnbroker of this city, who has an evil reputation as a receiver of stolen goods, but who has hitherto by his cunning escaped punishment, received his just deserts, for once at least, mainly through a clear and practical interpretation of the law by the Judge. The game of Kaas has been to retain the stolen goods that come into his possession until the lapse of two years had barred criminal prosecution, but in this instance he made a miscalculation, for Judge Sharswood ruled that the loser of property by felony was not delayed in his civil action for their value until he had presented the felon. Under this ruling the jury rendered a verdict against Kaas for the value of the goods and exemplary damages, and the result of this verdict will doubtless be to render more dangerous, even if it does not break up, the whole business of receiving stolen goods. Pawnbroking is a perfectly legitimate and, under proper regulations, a very useful business. There are many men of good character engaged in it, who exercise great care about receiving suspicious goods; but there are also many small operators who are nothing more than confederates of thieves. Among this class is Kaas, and the transaction which has at length brought him within the clutches of the law proves how dangerous to the community such as he can be. If the business of some of the small pawnbrokers could be broken up, the professional thieves would be deprived of their present facilities for the disposal of stolen goods, and an additional protection would be afforded to the honest portion of the community.

THE FEES OF ROW OFFICERS.

SENATOR CONNELL has recently introduced the bill for the reduction of the fees of the Philadelphia Row officers which has figured so often that it seems like an old acquaintance, and we feel like hailing it as "Monsieur Tonson come again!" The nominal object of this bill is praiseworthy. It professes to aim at the substitution of salaries for the excessive fees now paid, and if there were good reasons to believe that the Legislature would make such a reform, the bill, or some other bill aiming at the same object, would deserve general favor. But what happens year after year is this:—While the legislators talk about reducing fees or making the Row officers salaried positions, scarcely a session passes at which the fees and perquisites of one or more officials are not enormously increased. The Harrisburg reformers pretend to look one way, but meanwhile they row in another direction. When they talk they talk of cutting down fees; when they act, they increase them; and this farce has been played so often that it is may well be questioned whether the bill lately introduced is anything worse than what the sublime language of the legislative lobby characterizes as a pinching bill. If it is a mere invitation to the occupants or aspirants for Row offices to "see"

their friends in the Legislature, the public can have no interest in such a purely private business affair; and past experience strongly indicates that the movement this session is designed to pinch the office-holders and office-expectants rather than to relieve the taxpayers. There may be some reason to hope that the proposed reform will be effected by the contemplated Constitutional Convention, but the people have little to hope for from their legislators.

THE FIRST VISIT TO THE NIAM-NIAMS.—The African traveller, Dr. G. Schweinfurth, gives an interesting account in the Cologne Gazette of an expedition to the country of the Niam-Niams, which, he says, had never been visited by a scientific traveller before. He performed this journey as the guest of Mohammed Abu Sammat, a trader in ivory, and the party consisted of 300 persons. The climate of the country is extremely healthy, but travelling is difficult on account of the numerous rivers and marshes; in the southern districts the caravan had to cross a river or a bog nearly every quarter of an hour, and the crossing often occupied several hours. The general character of the land is that of a steppe, except on the banks of the rivers, which are thickly wooded and provided with narrow foot-paths. In crossing a river, the travellers usually wade to their hips in black mud, and huge leeches attack to their legs. They suffered a good deal for want of food; all they could get was corn occasionally, and some bulbous roots (cassava, colocasia, bananas, and excellent yams), but no meat except fowls. On the return journey they killed some large antelopes which they would have but travelling is difficult. They passed through the dominions of the Chiefs Seriba Sabbi Nganye and Uando the latter of whom presented Lt. Schweinfurth with a large jar full of scorched elephant's tippie taken from an animal a hundred years old, and finally reached the residence of Munsu, the King of the Mombatta. This place lies at about 3 degrees north latitude south of the great Uele River, which Dr. Schweinfurth believes is the same as the Upper Khari (tributary of Lake Tchad), and joins the Blue Nile at Khartoum. Munsu is a "reddish-brown savage, covered all over with shining copper ornaments like a well-kempt kitchen;" his wives are painted in all sorts of colors, and the rooms in his palace are as large as railway stations; that in which the travellers were received was one hundred feet long, 50 feet wide, and 10 feet high. Cannibalism is prevalent both among the Mombatta and the Niam-Niams. Munsu eats human flesh daily, and the Mom uttu go regularly on hunting expeditions among the wild negro races in the south; the dead and wounded are either eaten on the spot or their flesh dried for future consumption, and the prisoners are carried away to be eaten at leisure. As for the Niam-Niams, they make war on the Nubians out of sheer cannibalism. "Fishes, fish" is their war-cry, and any slave that comes in their way is at once sacrificed to their riling passion. On the return journey the travellers were repeatedly attacked by Niam-Niams with lances and boomerangs, but their only casualties were two wounded, one of whom was the leader of the caravan, Mohammed Abu Sammat. Both soon recovered. The total distance travelled from Seriba Ghatras, in Darfur, whence Dr. Schweinfurth dates his letter, to Munsu's residence was about seventy-five German (300 English) miles.

THE NEW RUSSIAN LEVY.—The Russian *Invalid*, organ of the War Office at St. Petersburg, publishes some interesting information regarding the new levy of six hundred,000 men ordered by the Imperial Ukase of the 1st (15th) inst. It says that during the last four years the proportion of recruits taken from the able-bodied population has been four per thousand, making an annual contingent of about 100,000 men. As, however, the period of military service was in 1869 reduced from twenty to fifteen years, the effective strength of the army, which is at present about 1,250,000, would under the system hitherto pursued fluctuate considerably; "but such fluctuations cannot be admitted if we are to place the army on such a complete footing as to make it capable of acting in any emergency." A further cause of fluctuation is the new military reform introduced by the Emperor in his ukase of the 4th of November, which orders the formation of reserves taken from the men on furlough. The levy, proceeds the *Invalid*, is therefore "a measure destined to secure, not the wants of the present moment, when we could do without recruiting altogether, but the effective organization of our military forces in the future." Moreover, adds the *Invalid*, the men now to be recruited will, as their numbers are considerably greater than those of the ordinary annual contingents, get their furlough much sooner than usual, for their services with the regular army, which is to remain at its present strength, will not be required so long. In conclusion, the *Invalid* points out that the levy is the first step towards making service in the Russian army compulsory for all classes of the population.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD AS A TRADE ROUTE.—We quote the following from an special report on the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad made by W. Milnor Roberts, Esq., Civil Engineer:—"The Northern Pacific Railroad will be a favorite and most convenient route for trade and travel across the ocean from Asia and the Sandwich and other islands of the Pacific; transporting Asiatic products quickly to the gold regions of Montana, and distributing them along the valleys of the Yellowstone, the Missouri, the Dakota, the Red River, the Mississippi, and the Lake region. It is true that the main terminus will be at Lake Superior, but connections with St. Paul and Chicago are to be made which will put this line in direct communication with the entire railroad system of the United States and Canada."

NOTICES.

HEADACHE, LANGOUR, and MELANCHOLY generally spring from a disordered stomach, costiveness, or a torpid liver. Each may readily be removed by Dr. D. Jayne's Sensitive Pills, a few doses of which will be found to stimulate the liver and stomach to healthy action, removing all biliousness, and producing regular evacuations of the bowels. Sold by all druggists.

JEWELRY AND SILVERWARE.

1124. SILVERWARE.

ARE NOW OPENING AN ELEGANT ASSORTMENT of Sterling Silver Ware in Plain and Fancy Designs. ROBBINS, CLARK & BIDDLE, No. 1124 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

CLOTHING. A GREAT STORE FULL Of the richest and most beautiful assortment of BOYS' and MEN'S CLOTHING EVER OFFERED! Also, Of the choicest and most varied stock of excellent piece goods.

Ever Heard of, Great Brown Hall. Now closing out To make way For the immense Stock of Spring Clothes Soon to appear.

WHILE THE WINTER DAYS still last, remember your opportunities to buy fine Overcoats cheap. THINK of the great reduction on all our suits for cold weather at the GREAT BROWN HALL.

CONSIDER THE FACT that you can now buy, for a mere song, substantial and beautiful clothing enough to last you All Next Winter.

It is to the interest Of every gentleman In Philadelphia Or its vicinity To come, and bring all their boys, to the GREAT BROWN HALL

ROBBINS & WILSON 603 and 605 CHESTNUT STREET PHILADELPHIA.

HABILEMENS' No. 324 CHESTNUT ST. CHARLES STOKES & CO. UNDER THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL PHILADELPHIA: PA.

TAILORS. Evening Dress Suits. Military and Naval Uniforms.

DRY GOODS. 1871. PRIOR TO STOCK TAKING, February 1, WE WILL CLOSE OUT, Regardless of Cost, BALANCE OF DRESS GOODS, PAISLEY SHAWLS, BROCCO SHAWLS, BLANKET SHAWLS, HOOP SKIRTS AND CLOTH SKIRTS, CLOAKING CLOTHS AND PLAIDS, HEAVY FLANNELS, BLANKETS, ETC.

Office and Salesrooms, No. 1318 CHESTNUT Street, PHILADELPHIA.

CO-OPERATION. OFFICE OF PHILADELPHIA SUGAR HOUSE, DELAWARE AVENUE AND NOBLE STREET, HARRIS, HEYL & CO.

OFFICE OF PHILADELPHIA SUGAR HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, January 14, 1871. The undersigned this day enter into copartnership under the firm of HARRIS, GIBBONS & CO., as successors of HARRIS, HEYL & CO., and continue the business.

DREXEL & CO., No. 34 SOUTH THIRD STREET, American and Foreign Bankers, DEALERS IN Government and Railroad Securities, Drexel, Windrop & Co., Drexel, Harjes & Co., No. 15 Wall Street, New York.

WRIGHT'S NE PLUS ULTRA Minced Meat. Unequaled for Quality.

WRIGHT'S SPRING GARDEN and FRAZKIN SOLD BY ALL GROCERS. 12 1/2th St. No. 300 ARCH Street.

WINES. HOCK WINES. Just received from the house of D. LEIDEN, COLOGNE, on the Rhine, an invoice of HOCK WINES, Consisting of JOHANNISBERG, MARKOBRUNNER, STEINWEIN, LIEBFRAUMLICH, and NIERSTEINER, VINTAGES OF 1862 and 1865.

For sale by JOSEPH F. TOBIAS & CO., No. 206 and 208 SOUTH FRONT ST. PHILADELPHIA.

PIANOS. GEORGE STECK & CO.'S GRAND SQUARE AND UPRIGHT. HAINES BROS. PIANOS, BRADBURY'S PIANOS, MASON AND HAMLIN'S CABINET ORGANS, An Elegant Stock at Greatly Reduced Prices.

GOULD & FISCHER, No. 923 CHESTNUT Street, No. 1018 ARCH Street.

STEINWAY & SONS' Grand Square and Upright Pianos. Special attention is called to their Patent Upright Pianos, With Double Iron Frame, Patent Resonator, Tubular Metal Frame Action, etc., which are matchless in Tone and Touch, and unrivalled in durability.

CHARLES BLASIUS, WAREHOUSES, No. 1006 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

SEWING MACHINES. THE AMERICAN Combination Button-Hole AND SEWING MACHINE

It is now admitted to be far superior to all others as a Family Machine. THE SIMPLICITY, EASE, and CERTAINTY with which it operates, as well as the uniform excellence of its work, throughout the entire range of sewing, in STITCHING, HEMMING, FELLING, TUCKING, CORING, BRAIDING, QUILTING, GATHERING, AND SEWING ON, OVERSEAMING, EMBROIDERING ON THE EDGE, AND ITS BEAUTIFUL BUTTON-HOLE AND EYE-LET HOLE WORK.

Place it unquestionably far in advance of any other similar invention. This is the only new family machine that embodies any substantial improvement upon the many old machines in the market.

It Certainly has no Equal. It is also admirably adapted to manufacturing purposes on all kinds of fabrics. Call and see it operate, and get samples of its work.

We have also for sale our "PLAIN AMERICAN," a beautiful family machine, at a Reduced Price. This machine does all that is done on the Combination except the Overseaming and Button-hole work.

Office and Salesrooms, No. 1318 CHESTNUT Street, PHILADELPHIA.

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WRIGHT'S NE PLUS ULTRA Minced Meat. Unequaled for Quality. CAUTION.—Beware of all imitations, as there but one WRIGHT in the market. DEPOT, SOUTHWEST CORNER SPRING GARDEN and FRAZKIN SOLD BY ALL GROCERS. 12 1/2th St. No. 300 ARCH Street.

SEWING MACHINES. THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE, For Sale on Easy Terms. NO. 914 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

GROCERIES, ETC. NEW FRENCH GOODS PER LATE IMPORTATION.

NEW BORDEAUX PRUNES, in 2 lb. jars. GUILLOFF'S SARDINES, in 1/2 and 3/4 boxes. BONELESS SARDINES, in 1/2 and 3/4 boxes. FRENCH PEAS and BEANS. FRENCH MUSHROOMS. FRENCH OLIVES. NONPAREIL CAPERS. FRENCH MUSTARD, in glass pots. LATOURS OLIVE OIL. SPANISH QUEEN OLIVES, in glass jars.

WILLIAM KELLEY, N. W. Corner TWELFTH Street and GIRARD Avenue, PHILADELPHIA.

ESTABLISHED 1809. WARRANTED PURE Old Government Java Coffee, Roasted fresh every day, at only 25 cents per lb., or 5 lbs. for one dollar. Lovers of good Coffee, give this a trial and satisfy yourselves. For sale only at

COUSTY'S East End Grocery, No. 118 South SECOND St., 2 1/2th St. Below Chesnut, West Side, N. B.—Choice Groceries of all kinds constantly arriving.

FOR SALE OR TO RENT.—THE PREMISES No. 72 CHESTNUT Street. The store has recently been fitted up with a new front, etc. The store is suitable for a hotel or boarding-house. The store will be rented without the dwelling if desired. Lot, 25 feet by 145 feet. THOMAS SHIPLEY, No. 20 N. SEVENTH Street.

FOR SALE.—DESIRABLE WEST PHILADELPHIA HOUSE, No. 4905 Chestnut street, a three-story brown-stone front; complete with modern conveniences; bay window, etc.; lot, 20 feet front by 125 feet deep. Apply to ALFRED G. BARKER, 114th St., CLAYTON, No. 711 WALNUT Street.

FOR SALE.—VERY DESIRABLE MEDIUM sized House No. 2607 WALNUT Street. Best buildings, all modern improvements, in perfect order; with or without furniture. (11 1/2th St. S. KINGSTON MCCAIG, No. 422 WALNUT St.

TO RENT. BARE CHANCE, STORE No. 38 CHESTNUT STREET, UNDER CONTINENTAL HOTEL. Elegant fixtures for sale, including Marble Counters, Large Mirrors, etc. Immediate possession. 12 1/2th St.

TO LET, 800N. NEW HOUSE, No. 78 N. SIXTH Street, on Grand Estate. Two bath-rooms, stationary wash-tubs, speaking tube, etc. 11 1/2th St. No. 438 CHESTNUT Street.

CLASS AND QUEENSWARE. \$200,000 WORTH OF CHINA, GLASS AND EARTHEN WARE TO BE CLOSED OUT, REGARDLESS OF COST. Gay's China Palace, No. 1012 CHESTNUT STREET.

Are obliged to close out their immense stock, in consequence of the building they occupy having been sold at Sheriff's sale, which breaks their lease. The entire stock must be closed out by the 1st of April, as they are obliged to vacate the premises by that time. Below we quote prices of a few leading staple goods. Fancy goods are at a still greater discount from former prices.

White French China Dining Sets, 150 pieces..... \$30-00 White French China Dining Sets, 113 pieces..... 21-00 White French China Tea Sets, 44 pieces..... 7-00 White French China Tea Sets, 46 pieces..... 8-00 White French China Cups and Saucers, per set 12 pieces (cups with handles)..... 3-00 12 pieces (cups with handles)..... 1-00 8 one China Dining Sets, 84 pieces..... 3-50 Stone China Tea Sets (cups with handles) 44 ps 2-50 Stone China Tea Sets (cups with handles) 46 ps 4-00 Stone China Chamber Sets, 84 pieces..... 2-00 Stone China Cups and Saucers, per set 12 pieces 50 Stone China Dining Plates, per dozen..... 1-00 Table Tumblers, per dozen..... 50 Table Goblets, per dozen..... 75 Glass Tea Sets (4 articles)..... 75 Bichheim Cologne Sets, 2 Bottles and Perf Box 90 Bichheim Liquor Sets, 2 Glasses, Water and Bottle..... 90

An endless variety of Family Goods, suitable for Holiday Presents, at an immense reduction from former prices. Goods to go out of the city will be packed and delivered to transportation office free of charge, and insured against breakage to destination. SHOW ROOMS OPEN TILL 9 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT. STORE FIXTURES FOR SALE. 113 1/2th St. HOLIDAY GOODS. HOLIDAY GOODS. Spring Horses, Rocking Horses, Children's Carriages, BOYS' SLEDS, WAGONS, VELOCIPEDS, Etc. Etc. H. J. SHILL, Factory, No. 226 DOCK Street, 12 1/2th St. BELOW EXCHANGE.

SNOWDEN & PAFF'S COAL DEPOT, CORNER OF DELAWARE and WILLOW STREETS.—Largest and Schuyler's COAL, prepared expressly for family use at the lowest cash prices. 11 1/2th St.